

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION**

**B.P.J., by her next friend and mother,  
HEATHER JACKSON,  
Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**Civil Action No. 2:21-cv-00316  
Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin, Judge**

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
HARRISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES COMMISSION, W. CLAYTON BURCH  
in his official capacity as State Superintendent, and  
DORA STUTLER in her official capacity as  
Harrison County Superintendent,  
Defendants,**

**And**

**LAINEY ARMISTEAD,  
Defendant-Intervenor.**

**WVSSAC’S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE**

Now comes West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC), by counsel, Roberta F. Green, Kimberly M. Bandy, Shannon M. Rogers and Shuman McCuskey Slicer PLLC, and replies to Plaintiff’s Consolidated Opposition to Defendant WVSSAC’s Motion for Leave to File Surreply (DKT. No 484) and Notice of Supplemental Authority (DKT. No. 485) (Plaintiff’s Opposition), as follows. Plaintiff does not refute nor attempt to disassociate from the admission that Bernie Dolan ‘is not a legislator and did not have any input on whether or if H.B. 3293 was enacted.”<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff does not dispute or refute the application of that admission to WVSSAC’s pending motions (the substance of the proposed Surreply). Conversely, Plaintiff asserts only that the admission is not the proper form to serve as supplemental authority and that,

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff’s Opposition (ECF No. 486) at 2.

regardless, WVSSAC filed its Notice and Motion more than two months after the admission was made, rendering WVSSAC's submission 'untimely.'<sup>2</sup>

In renewing its Motion for Leave and Notice, WVSSAC states as follows. Plaintiff has relied upon *Ashghari-Kamrani v. United Servs. Auto Assoc.*, 2:15-CV-478, 2016 WL 825884, at \*1 (E.D. Va. Mar. 18, 2016), presumably for the assertion that supplemental authority must be case law. While Plaintiff stops short of so stating, Plaintiff does emphasize *case law* and, presumably in reliance on *Ashghari*, pronounces Plaintiff's admission as inappropriate supplemental authority.<sup>3</sup> However, the *Ashghari* case does not address whether anything other than case law might be appropriate for use as supplemental authority. The parties in *Ashghari* argued relative to the timing of the case law, the circuit from which the case law arose, and other factors particularized to that matter. In *Ashghari*, only case law was submitted as supplemental authority.

Conversely, in *People to End Homelessness, Inc., v. Devlco Singles Apartments Assoc.*, 339 F.3d 1, \*6 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2003), the First Circuit held relative to submission of a document with HUD questions/answers that, while more generally authority takes the form of case law, the Court declined to define the contours of the [appellate] rules, choosing instead to assume that it is permissible for the Court to consider what the Court wants to consider.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, such a finding is consistent with *Ashghari*, where the District Court found it appropriate *inter alia* to consider the supplemental authority despite plaintiff's arguments that the case law arose from another circuit and had disputed relevance to the issue before the Court.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, over plaintiff's objections, the

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<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff's Opposition (ECF No. 486) at 2, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Plaintiff's Opposition (ECF at 486) at 2-3.

<sup>4</sup> *People to End Homelessness, Inc., v. Devlco Singles Apartments Assoc.*, 339 F.3d 1, \*6 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2003),

<sup>5</sup> *Ashghari-Kamrani v. United Servs. Auto Assoc.*, 2:15-CV-478, 2016 WL 825884, at \*6-7 (E.D. Va. Mar. 18, 2016).

*Ashghari* Court found that “[t]o suggest that a party may not file such a notice and inform the Court of subsequent authority is nonsensical.”<sup>6</sup> While *Ashghari* relates to case law and *Devlco* considered documentary evidence, both courts found value in the submissions and determined to give the submission the weight in its considerations that it deigned appropriate. WVSSAC seeks the same consideration here – whatever weight the Court deems appropriate.

Plaintiff’s Opposition also cites WVSSAC’s Motion and Notice as ‘untimely.’<sup>7</sup> In support, Plaintiff relies on authority where litigants filed supplemental materials in litigation generally (not as supplemental authority). In *Gentry v. Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 204786, apropos of nothing, plaintiff filed two additional exhibits to support a pending motion – filing the additional exhibits months after the initial brief. The Court deemed the submission untimely. Conversely, here the capstone admission that **“Mr. Dolan is not a legislator and did not have any input on whether or if H.B. 3293 was enacted”**<sup>8</sup> appeared for the first time after the close of motions practice for WVSSAC. Plaintiff does not dispute that these arguments and claims have never appeared previously in Plaintiff’s briefs nor ever in Plaintiff’s briefs with WVSSAC. With a new scheduling order and a stasis between discovery and pretrial events, the timeliness of any submission relative to the Court’s determinations is beyond these parties’ ability to know or surmise.

It remains undisputed that the proposed Surreply addresses only this admission and does not stray into ancillary or new issues or evidence beyond that scope,<sup>9</sup> is not merely responsive to

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<sup>6</sup> *Ashghari-Kamrani v. United Servs. Auto Assoc.*, 2:15-CV-478, 2016 WL 825884, at \*7 (E.D. Va. Mar. 18, 2016).

<sup>7</sup> Plaintiff’s Opposition (ECF No. 486) at 3.

<sup>8</sup> ECF No. 470 at 2 (emphasis added).

<sup>9</sup> See *Cordish Cos. v. Affiliated FM Ins. Co.*, 573 F. Supp. 3d 977 (D. Md. 2021) at 988, stating that “[a] surreply is ordinarily permitted when the party seeking to file the surreply ‘would be unable to contest matters presented to the court for the first time’ in the opposing party’s reply. *Clear Channel Outdoor*,

an issue raised in the opposition,<sup>10</sup> and WVSSAC would be unable to comment upon or apply this admission any other way.<sup>11</sup> WVSSAC satisfies this standard because this precise admission arose for the first time at the close of motions practice in a manner that logically would not suggest its application to WVSSAC directly absent this motions practice.

For the reasons set forth herein, WVSSAC respectfully requests that its Motion for Leave be granted and its Surreply filed as previously submitted.

**WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES COMMISSION,  
By Counsel.**

**/S/ Roberta F. Green**

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*Inc. v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore*, 22 F. Supp. 3d 519, 529 (D. Md. 2014) (quotations and citations omitted).

<sup>10</sup> See *Khoury v. Meserve*, 268 F. Supp. 2d 600, 605-06 (D. Md. 2003).

<sup>11</sup> *Lewis v. Rumsfeld*, 154 F. Supp. 2d 56, 61 (D.D.C. 2001).

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I, Roberta F. Green, have this, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022, served a true and exact copy of the foregoing “**WVSSAC’s Reply in Support of Motion for Leave**” with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF System, which will send notification of such filing to the following counsel of record:

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